ALLOISPERMUM INSUETUM (ASTERACEAE: HELIANTHEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM COLOMBIA

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ABSTRACT

A description and illustration are provided for **Alloispermum insuetum**, a new species from Colombia.

Alloispermum Willd. (Heliantheae: Galinsoginae) includes approximately 10 species of suffrutescent shrubs and a few truly herbaceous species that occur in dry to moist mountainous regions from Mexico to northern South America. The generic name was proposed by Willdenow (1807), but not used until revived by Robinson (1978a,b, 1979). The previously undescribed species was discovered among specimens examined as part of our ongoing investigations in the subtribe.

Alloispermum insuetum Fernandez, Urbatsch, and Sullivan, sp. nov.

Suffrutex, 1–2 m altus. Folia lanceolata, 5–10 cm longa. Capitulescentia ad 15 cm lata, capitulae ca. 10, pedunculis 2.5–7 cm longis. Involucra hemisphaerica, ca. 9 mm alta, 15 mm lata. Flores radii ca. 15, ligulae albae tincta apice roseae, flores disci 40–65. Achenia radii 2.5 mm longa, glabrescentia; achenia disci 2.7 mm longa, pubescentia sparsim, pappi radiorum et discorum similes, squamae ca. 15, plerumque 5–5.5 mm longae (Fig. 1).

Weak, suffrutescent shrubs, 1–2 m tall. Leaves subsessile; blades lanceolate, 5–10 cm long, 2.5 cm wide, basally obtuse, apically long acuminate, abaxially pilose, with uniseriate, 5–6-celled trichomes, mainly along the veins, adaxially pubescent, with uniseriate, 2–3-celled trichomes; margins remotely serrate. Capitulescence corymbose, ca. 15 cm broad, ca. 10-headed; peduncles 2.5–7 cm long, densely pilose. Capitula 55–80-flowered; involucres hemispheric, ca. 9 mm long, ca. 15 mm wide, with phyllaries 2–3-seriate, obovate, 6.5–8.5 mm long, 4–6 mm wide, pubescent, apically acute; receptacle conical, 4.5 mm long, 4 mm wide. Ray flowers ca. 15; corollas 14–18 mm long, ligules 12–15 mm long, up to 5.5 mm wide, white with the apex tinged pinkish-red; corolla tube 2.5–4.2 mm long, densely pilose; disc flowers 40–65; corollas 6.4 mm long; ray achenes 2.5

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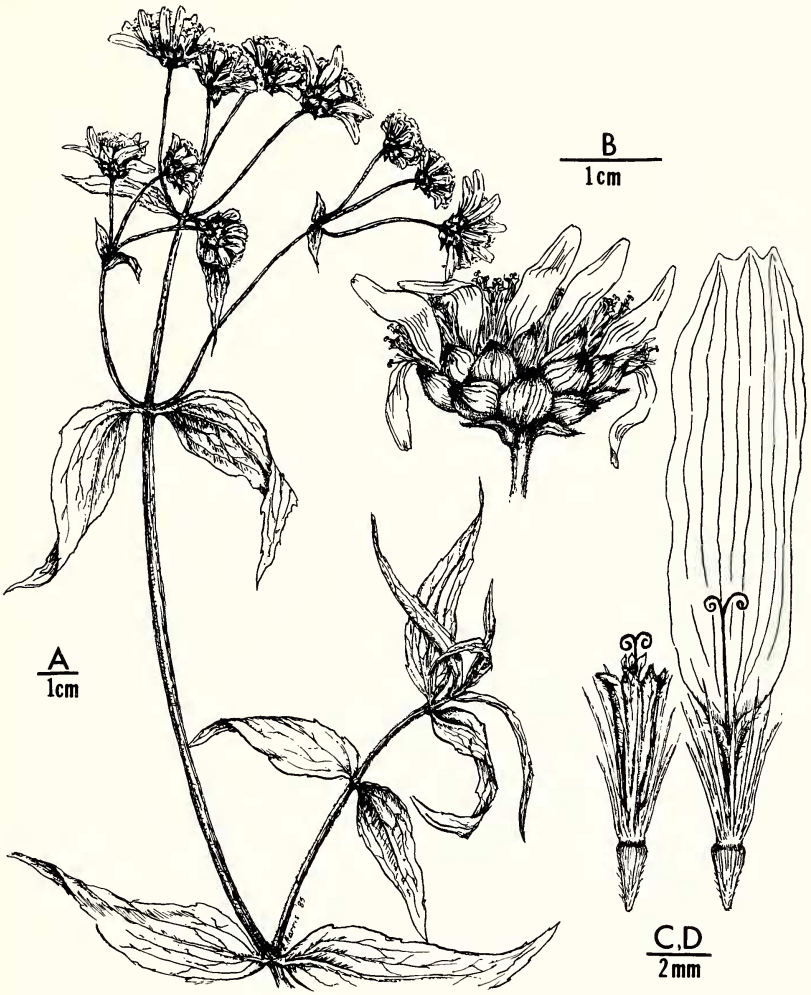

FIG. 1. *Alloispermum insuetum.* A. Habit. B. Capitulum. C. Disk flower. D. Ray flower. Drawn from *Schlim 359.*

mm long, mostly glabrous. Disc achenes 2.7 mm long, sparsely pubescent; pappus of both ray and disc achenes ca. 15 linear-lanceolate, fimbriate scales, 5–5.5 mm long.

TYPE: Colombia, Norte de Santander, Provincia de Ocaña: 8000–10,000 ft, Jan 1852, *Schlim 359* (Holotype: K!; isotype: BM). The collection date for the type material can not be ascertained directly from the specimen label data. According to Linden (1867), Schlim explored the Ocaña region in 1851 until the beginning of 1852.

PARATYPE: Colombia, Norte de Santander, around Ocaña, *Schlim 440* (K!).

Alloispermum insuetum is known only from the type material and one other specimen; it grows from 2400–3200 m and flowering occurs in January. This species is similar in habit, disc pappus, leaf, phyllary, and achene features to the other species in the genus. It is distinguished easily from the other South American species by its larger heads, longer ligules, and the presence of a pappus in the rays. The specific epithet "insuetum" (=unusual) was chosen to call attention to these features. *Alloispermum insuetum* is similar to larger-headed forms of *A. caracasanum* (Kunth) H. Robinson, but the former has more than 40 disc flowers and about 15 ray flowers per head, whereas the latter has fewer than 35 and 8, respectively.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

REVISED EDITION

TERRELL, E. S., S. R. HILL, J. H. WIERSEMA, and W. E. RICE, A checklist of names for 3,000 vascular plants of economic importance, Revised ed., *U.S.D.A., Agricultural Handbook,* no. 505, pp. [i–ii], 1–241, Oct. 1986, no ISBN, paperbound, price unknown (from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402). [First edition = 1977; a useful compilation of common names and accepted scientific names for 1241 genera and 3296 species, subspecies, and varieties, with inclusion of 983 rather common synonyms.]